

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

FOR SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

July 2003



Labor force growth outstrips job growth, typical for June

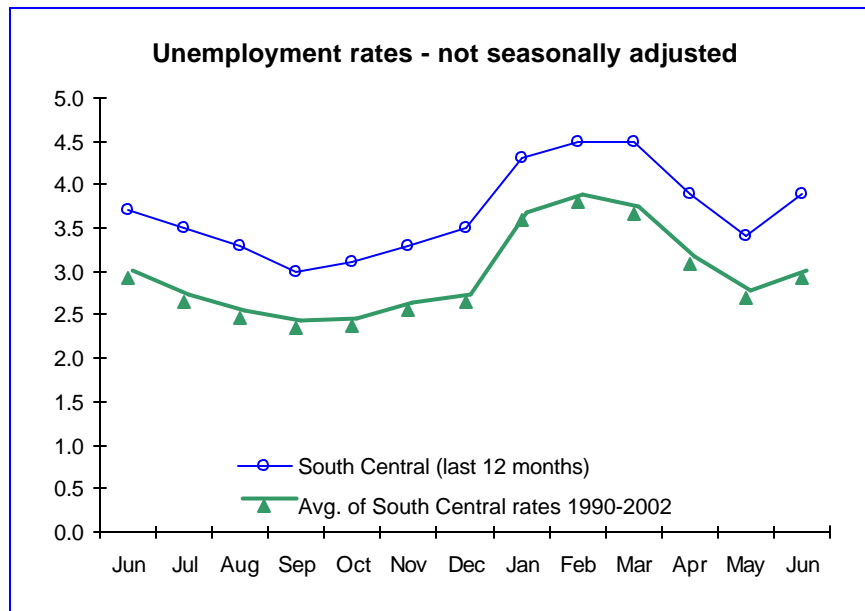
Recent graduates, students seeking summer work, and seasonal workers in fields such as construction and agriculture helped **Wisconsin** gain 62,000 employed residents and 25,500 unemployed residents in June. May-to-June labor force growth usually outstrips job growth, and this June's unemployment rate increase is consistent with typical patterns (although slightly steeper than usual).

The unemployment rate in **Columbia County** rose from less than 0.5 percent above the typical May level to 0.8 percent above the typical June level. Construction job growth maintained a healthy pace, while trade and manufacturing have yet to recover jobs they cut September 2002 through January 2003. Over-the-month and over-the year job growth has concentrated in leisure & hospitality. Education & health services had been above 2002 levels for every month of this year, until posting June estimates below the June 2002 level.

Dane County saw its unemployment rate rise as high above typical levels as it has at any time in the last year. The concentration of students and recent graduates entering the labor market has pushed up the unemployment rate every June (except one) since 1990. Adding 1,200 jobs since May and 600 jobs since last June, the retail segment of the retail & wholesale trade sector is above its 2002 figures for the first time this year. Construction has been above 2002 figures for only two months this year. Financial activities have provided strong, steady, job growth this year, as has the leisure & hospitality sector.

From November to May, **Dodge County** unemployment rates were 1.5 to 2.0 percent above typical levels, so the June report of a rate 2.5 percent above

typical levels is a jump. Any gain in manufacturing employment is welcome, because the sector has had roughly 600 to 700 fewer jobs each month this year than last. Education & health services and leisure & hospitality show brighter signs.



Labor force estimates - not seasonally adjusted

	Wisconsin			South Central			Columbia			Dane		
	Jun 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Jun 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Jun 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Jun 2003	1-month change	1-year change
Civilian Labor Force**	3,164,000	87,500	79,700	466,500	14,700	19,000	30,100	940	980	295,500	6,600	14,400
Employed	2,982,400	62,000	68,000	448,500	12,200	17,400	28,300	800	880	286,700	5,500	13,700
Unemployed	181,600	25,500	11,700	18,100	2,500	1,620	1,720	140	110	8,700	1,080	620
Unemployment rate (%)	5.7	0.6	0.2	3.9	0.5	0.2	5.7	0.3	0.2	3.0	0.4	0.1

	Dodge			Jefferson			Marquette			Sauk		
	Jun 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Jun 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Jun 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Jun 2003	1-month change	1-year change
Civilian Labor Force**	48,100	2,000	920	44,100	1,640	600	7,900	240	270	40,900	3,300	1,900
Employed	44,800	1,210	290	42,000	1,370	490	7,300	210	230	39,300	3,100	1,800
Unemployed	3,300	810	630	2,200	260	110	570	30	40	1,570	190	100
Unemployment rate (%)	6.9	1.5	1.2	4.9	0.4	0.2	7.2	0.2	0.3	3.8	0.1	0.0

** Includes labor force participants residing in area. Estimates are **NOT** seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations are based on unrounded numbers. Results are rounded. For more information call (608) 242-4885 or email dan.barroilhet@dwd.state.wi.us.

The May-to-June increase in **Jefferson County's** unemployment rate is slightly higher than usual, and the rate itself is about 1 percent above typical for June. The rate was further above typical levels January through March but not nearly so high above typical levels last September or October. Comparing each month this year to the same month last year, the trade sector has posted annual increases each month. Comparing each month to the one before it, only January and February have seen job losses in the retail & wholesale trade sector, and the retail segment generally expects to cut back somewhat in those months. The leisure & hospitality sector has shown similarly strong growth. Indeed, comparing this June to last, almost all job growth seems to be in these two sectors. The information, professional, business & other services fell steeply in January and slightly in February, and has grown steadily since then, albeit to monthly levels below their 2002 counterparts. June showed lackluster growth in manufacturing jobs and scant evidence of a forthcoming rebound.

Over the last year, **Marquette County** has seen unemployment rates roughly 1.0 percent to 1.7 percent higher than typical. The June rate was in the middle of that range (about 1.3 percent higher than the typical rate) and was fairly middling amongst the last twelve month's rates. At first glance, the May-to-June changes in employment by industry estimates (below) make June look like a fairly quiet month with more stability than change. Leisure & hospitality continues to be an important component of job growth, both in the over-the-month estimates and in the over-the-year estimates. June saw no change in manufacturing, but the sector continues to post

more jobs each month this year than it did at the same time last year, which is an unambiguously (albeit slightly) positive sign. The same can be said of trade. The pickup in construction job growth allows the sector to pull itself up to a point where it at least matches last year's monthly estimate, for the first time in 2003. Information, professional, business & other services lost jobs August through January and has not yet regained enough of them to reach last June's figure; the sector has been below its 2002 trend for all of 2003.

Sauk County's unemployment rate was 0.4 percent below the typical February rate (in February) and 0.3 percent above the typical April rate (in April). In June it matched the typical June rate almost exactly and posted the second-lowest rate or any Wisconsin county (Dane was the lowest). The construction sector started the year very near 2002 levels, but has been well below 2002 levels since April. Manufacturing job growth has been healthy for two months, but it fell so sharply in April 2002 and October 2002 that plenty of recovery would lie ahead before 2003 levels match hopes people had before April 2002. In 2003, manufacturing even remains below year-ago levels after April 2002. The trade sector has not regained jobs shed every month from last August through this February. It has been adding jobs since March, but the June growth was less than May growth and the sector has been well below 2002 levels since January. The financial activities sector shows a similar seasonal pattern to 2002 with the absolute levels running around 5 percent lower. The big numbers continue to be in leisure & hospitality, the only sector to post substantial job growth over the month and over the year.

Employment by industry estimates - not seasonally adjusted

	Wisconsin			South Central			Columbia			Dane		
	Jun 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Jun 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Jun 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Jun 2003	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all industries*	2,828,900	30,800	5,500	441,600	8,000	10,100	22,400	590	270	304,900	2,900	9,600
Const., min'g & nat. resources	129,400	6,200	-8,200	23,400	1,350	510	1,240	70	50	15,900	900	400
Manufacturing	519,300	3,000	-14,500	60,800	290	-560	4,900	70	-50	28,700	-100	1,100
Trade (wholesale & retail)	440,200	7,800	6,500	62,800	1,650	410	3,400	70	-110	42,300	1,300	1,000
Transport, Whrsing, Utilities	106,900	800	1,900	11,500	230	260	740	10	-30	7,600	700	1,400
Financial activities	158,700	2,400	3,900	29,800	780	1,250	590	10	40	26,100	700	1,300
Education & health services	361,200	-2,000	2,200	43,800	330	940	2,500	-80	-20	29,000	300	700
Leisure & hospitality	256,400	10,600	-500	45,900	3,200	3,500	2,800	330	330	25,000	500	400
Info, prof, bus. & other srvc	438,500	7,600	9,200	68,900	580	1,520	2,100	70	-40	56,200	300	2,600
Government	418,300	-5,600	5,000	94,800	-430	2,300	4,000	60	90	74,100	-1,200	1,800

	Dodge			Jefferson			Marquette			Sauk		
	Jun 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Jun 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Jun 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Jun 2003	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all industries*	33,700	680	-320	36,400	910	-660	4,100	-30	100	40,200	2,900	1,140
Const., min'g & nat. resources	2,500	120	80	1,350	80	40	270	20	0	2,100	170	-60
Manufacturing	10,200	120	-680	9,300	60	-920	1,300	0	80	6,400	150	-90
Trade (wholesale & retail)	3,900	-30	-70	6,400	230	140	490	10	10	6,300	80	-560
Transport, Whrsing, Utilities	1,020	0	30	1,210	0	-30	60	0	0	860	20	-10
Financial activities	710	10	-40	970	20	30	120	0	0	1,280	50	-80
Education & health services	4,200	40	250	4,500	60	-10	290	0	-20	3,300	10	40
Leisure & hospitality	2,800	100	170	3,600	120	250	520	30	20	11,200	2,100	2,300
Info, prof, bus. & other srvc	2,900	100	-240	4,600	80	-130	230	0	-20	2,900	40	-640
Government	5,500	230	170	4,500	280	-20	770	-90	30	6,000	290	240

*Includes jobs with employers in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary.

Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations are based on unrounded numbers. Results are rounded. For more information call (608) 242-4885 or email dan.barroilhet@dwd.state.wi.us.